I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope ddressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below:

May 1, 2004

Patent Case No. 11168-4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Michael CLARK et al.

Serial No.: 10/619,166

Filing Date: July 10, 2003

A continuation of Serial No. 09/930,896, filed August 15, 2001

For: APPARATUS FOR REDUCING TENSION VARIATIONS IN A

SUPPLEMENTARY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

METAL STRIP

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed April 28, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application specification by inserting the following replacement paragraphs where indicated. Marked up copies of these paragraphs are attached to the end of this document.